

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 24, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PENNYBACKER made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill S. No. 93.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Peter Von Schmidt, for payment for a model of a "pneumatic dry-dock," furnished the commissioner to China, have had the same under consideration, and report the accompanying bill.

It appears, from the testimony accompanying the petition, that the model of the "pneumatic dry-dock" was constructed under the authority of the Secretary of State, and delivered to the person appointed to receive it, but was not sent to China, as had been contemplated. The reason assigned for its not having been paid for out of the appropriation for the mission to China, was, that the fund, large as it was, had been exhausted before application was made. While the committee cannot but regret the lavish expenditure which seems to have been made of the public money, they are aware that the contractor could not have known its extent; and that, having faithfully complied with the terms of the contract into which he had entered with the officers of the government, he is justly entitled to compensation. The committee have not felt themselves at liberty to allow interest on the claim.

Ritchie & Heiss, print.

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Nichols &amp; Hoist, print.